Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A teat rubber according to ~~claim 56~~claim 67, characterized in that at least one of at least a part of the planar teat bearing section and inner surfaces of a suction connecting piece have cushioned surfaces.

59. (Previously Presented) A teat rubber according to claim 58, characterized in that the cushioned surface consists of a foamed elastomer.

60. (Previously Presented) A teat rubber according to claim 59, characterized in that the foamed elastomer is a foam silicone.

61. (Previously Presented) A teat rubber according to claim 59, characterized in that the foamed elastomer is sprayed to form the cushioned surface.

62. (Previously Presented) A teat rubber according to claim 59, characterized in that at least one of a whole planar teat bearing section and the suction connecting piece consist of the foamed elastomer.

63. (Previously Presented) A teat rubber according to claim 58, characterized in that the cushioned surfaces are implemented as cushioned pockets.

64. (Previously Presented) A teat rubber according to claim 58, characterized in that the cushioned surfaces are a fluid-filled pad.

65. (Previously Presented) A teat rubber according to claim 63, characterized in that the cushioned surfaces are a replaceable insert.

66. (Previously Presented) A teat rubber according to claim 64, characterized in that the cushioned surfaces are a replaceable insert.

67. (New) A teat rubber for use on a milking cup of a milking apparatus, comprising:

a head part having provided thereon a sealing lip that forms an insertion opening for a teat, a part of the insertion opening conically tapering towards an innerside of the teat rubber in such a way that an inner fold located on the base of the teat cannot come into contact with the teat rubber and that pressure cannot be applied thereto;

a holding edge for grasping a milking cup sleeve;

a suction connecting piece connected to the head part; and

a planar teat bearing section formed on the sealing lip and defining the insertion opening,

characterized in that,

when seen in a cross-sectional view; a conically tapering surface of the conically tapering insertion opening is linear,

transitions between the conically tapering surface and a planar teat bearing section, as well as between the conically tapering surface and an udder bearing surface, respectively function as hinges and

the transitions comprise one of a portion of reduced material thickness, an indentation and a variation of the material properties in comparison with the properties of the adjoining material.

68. (New) A teat rubber according to Claim 67, wherein the transition comprises a portion of reduced material thickness.

69. (New) A teat rubber according to Claim 67, wherein the transition comprises an indentation.

70. (New) A teat rubber according to Claim 67, wherein the transition comprises a variation of material properties with respect adjoining material.

71. (New) A teat rubber for use on a milking cup of a milking apparatus, comprising:

a head part having provided thereon a sealing lip that forms an insertion opening for a teat, a top part of the insertion opening being formed, in cross-section, by a continuously inwardly curved portion of a teat-bearing section and a bottom portion of the insertion opening being formed, in cross-section, by a continuously outwardly curved portion of the teat-bearing section, the teat-bearing section being formed on the sealing lip and defining the insertion opening, a part of the insertion opening conically tapering towards an inner side of the teat rubber in such a way that an inner annular fold located on the base on the teat cannot come into contact with the teat rubber and that pressure cannot be applied thereto;

a holding edge for grasping a milking cup sleeve; and

a suction connecting piece connected to the heart part,

characterized in that

transitions provided in the sealing lip adjacent to the insertion opening function as hinges.